

**From:** [Acevedo, Janie](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Song](#)  
**Cc:** [Durant, Jennah](#); [Brescia, Nicolas](#); [Mason, Steve](#); [McAteer, Mike](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: air monitoring questions  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2013 11:23:19 AM

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Hi Lisa,  
Hope you are feeling better. I am actually not on response at the site any longer – Jennah Durrant will be your contact. I have copied her on this email.

*Janie Acevedo-Beauchamp*  
Management & Program Analyst/  
Strategic Planner  
214-665-2120 - office  
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**From:** Lisa Song [mailto:[lisa.song@insideclimatenews.org](mailto:lisa.song@insideclimatenews.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2013 10:20 AM  
**To:** Acevedo, Janie  
**Subject:** Re: FW: air monitoring questions

Hi Janie,

I'm checking in on the questions from my last email. I was sick for awhile so I took a break from the story, but I'm now back on track. In addition to the questions from Apr 15, I have a few more follow-ups:

4. As I understand, the EPA's air monitoring equipment used in Mayflower includes MultiRAEs and AreaRAEs. Is the agency also using GC/PC instruments to measure benzene on its own?
5. Are the EPA's measurements for VOC for total VOCs, or just BTEX? If they're for total VOCs, is methane included? (I believe AreaRAEs and MultiRAEs come with a variety of sensors, some of which exclude the methane wavelength).
6. What is the sensitivity/detection limit of EPA's air monitoring equipment in Mayflower for the following compounds (expressed in ppm)?
  - a) VOC
  - b) H2S

Thanks, and feel free to give me a call if you need clarification on any of these questions. My phone is [617-500-8266](tel:617-500-8266).

Lisa

On Mon, Apr 15, 2013 at 11:06 AM, Lisa Song <[lisa.song@insideclimatenews.org](mailto:lisa.song@insideclimatenews.org)> wrote:  
Thanks--the serial numbers are a big help. A few followup questions:

1. Can you send me the EPA's air monitoring data from March 30-Apr 2 as Excel spreadsheets instead of the PDF files posted online? It's hard to find averages or ranges from PDF files--I'm interested in the summary data from those days, similar to what Exxon/CTEH posted with their count of readings, detects, average concentrations and highest concentrations.
2. Were MultiRAEs used from March 30-Apr 2? I can't find any indication of that in the data from those days (I did a search and only found AreaRAEs listed among the instruments used).
3. What is the sensitivity of the AreaRAEs used from March 30-Apr 2? The data points are displayed with one decimal place, which indicates the instruments can detect down to 0.1 ppm. I'd like to fact check that assumption.

Thanks,  
Lisa

On Mon, Apr 15, 2013 at 9:50 AM, Acevedo, Janie <[Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov](mailto:Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov)> wrote:  
Lisa,  
Here is the additional information you requested.....

Since the beginning of the event, the AreaRAEs have been used as the fixed monitors. The MultiRAEs are being used for roaming monitoring, as well as any indoor residential monitoring.

EPA did not start producing the daily summary report until April 4, which includes the maps where the fixed monitoring is being conducted. However, the fixed locations have been constant since EPA began monitoring at the beginning of the response...

To determine which monitor from the data file corresponds to the monitor on the maps, use the serial number of the monitor on the right top corner of the report...

500137 = ML04

500138 = ML03

503424 = ML02

Let me know if you have additional questions. Thanks

Janie Acevedo-Beauchamp

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**From:** Lisa Song [mailto:[lisa.song@insideclimatenews.org](mailto:lisa.song@insideclimatenews.org)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2013 4:16 PM  
**To:** Acevedo, Janie  
**Cc:** Vela, Austin

**Subject:** Re: FW: air monitoring questions

Thanks! I will ask the DOH about the standards they used to evaluate the potential public health threat.

I still need a bit more clarification on questions 2 and 4: in the EPA's readings from the first 5 days (March 30 through Apr 2), the only instrument listed is the AreaRAE. Did EPA start using MultiRae pros after Apr 2?

Also, the first EPA map of monitoring locations (from the ADEQ website) appears on Apr 4. Does that same map apply to the data gathered March 30 - Apr 2? If so, the locations are still unclear, because the March 30-Apr 2 data only lists "Site ID: 00000001" for each set of data. In other words, the datasets all seem to be taken at the same location--and it's unclear where that is, because the EPA map from Apr 4 lists site locations as ML01, ML02, etc. Please let me know if I've missed something--I am simply trying to match the EPA's thousands of air quality readings from March 30-Apr 2 with the locations where they were taken.

Thanks,  
Lisa

On Sat, Apr 13, 2013 at 4:12 PM, Acevedo, Janie <[Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov](mailto:Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov)> wrote:  
Lisa,

Answer to #3: The EPA utilizes air monitoring equipment to determine what concentrations of VOCs are present in the air. The readings are given to the DOH to evaluate against public health levels.

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**From:** Vela, Austin  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2013 4:39:00 PM  
**To:** Lisa Song  
**Subject:** Re: air monitoring questions

1) We arrived on scene on March 29th. We began during the early morning hours on the 30th (around 2 am).

2) Also using MultiRae pro.

3) Ill need to follow up.

4) Maps of monitoring stations follow their corresponding data on the documents on the ADEQ website.

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**From:** Lisa Song  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2013 4:27:52 PM  
**To:** Vela, Austin  
**Subject:** air monitoring questions

Hello Austin,

I've been looking through the ADEQ's air monitoring data on the Mayflower spill, and I have some questions about the EPA data from the first 5 days of the spill (March 29-Apr 2). I hope you can help me with these questions, or put me in touch with someone who can:

1. Did the EPA take any air quality data on March 29? If so, they're not on the ADEQ website.
2. Did the EPA use any other type of air monitoring equipment aside from AreaRAE?
3. What is the basis of the High Alarm Levels and Low Alarm Levels for CO, VOC, H2S, LEL and OXY? Are these alarm level standards based on OSHA occupational health standards, or EPA, NIH standards etc? I know the federal government has several sets of standards that apply in different situations--please point me towards the correct standard used by the EPA in Mayflower, so I can make sure my reporting is done in the right context.
4. Where were the EPA readings taken? I can't seem to find the geographic location where the air quality data were taken. Please let me know if they were all taken at the same location (ie the neighborhood where the spill originated), or if they were taken in different places, and how to correlate the readings with their respective locations.

This is for an article I'm writing early next week, so I hope to get answers by EOD Monday. If you need clarification on any of my questions, please let me know.

Thanks, and have a good weekend,  
Lisa

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